

Notes from Correspondents abroad.

THE COYO OR SHUCTE

Mr. Wilson Popenoe, Agricultural Explorer, writes from Guatemala City, February 10, 1917:

"In the mountains of northern and eastern Guatemala there grows a fruit closely resembling the avocado, yet sufficiently different in foliage and flower to indicate that it is a distinct species, probably as yet undescribed botanically. For the time being it must, therefore, be termed *Persea* sp. In eastern Guatemala, around Zacapa, Gualan, Chiquimula, and El Rancho it is called shucte, chucte or sometimes chaucte, while in the northern part of the Republic,--immediately across the great Sierra de las Minas,--it is known under the names coyo and coyocté. These latter names have been thought by some to indicate two distinct fruits, perhaps distinct species, but an examination of several trees in the Alta Verapaz shows that they are in reality the same. Apparently the Indians call the cultivated fruit (for it is often grown in their gardens and around their huts) coyo, and the wild tree, which is abundant in the mountains, coyocté. The suffix té in the Quekchi language is said to mean tree; coyocté would therefore mean nothing more than coyo tree.

"In some sections of the Alta Verapaz the coyo is fully as common as the avocado, and seems to be held by the Indians in practically the same high esteem. An American coffee planter who lives in this region tells me that he considers the coyo even superior to the avocado in flavor, and after testing it I am inclined to agree with him.

"The coyo must be considered, then, an unusually interesting new fruit, but it has certain defects which make it seem, on the whole, inferior to the avocado. It has, for example, a large seed in most cases, and the flesh is sometimes disagreeably fibrous. But it is quite variable, like its relative the avocado, and some coyos are much superior to others.

"The coyo tree looks, at first glance, much like an avocado tree, and usually reaches about the same size. It is distinguishable from the avocado by the character of its leaves, which, upon close examination, are seen to differ from those of the avocado in form, to be larger, and to have more or less brownish